Government continues to be sensitive to the need to achieve a harmonious balance between the requirements of Gujjars and those of wildlife conservation.

Technology for control of water pollution

3353. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans for the import of technology for effective and early control of water pollution;

(b) if so, what arc the details thereof;

(c) whether any research institute is presently engaged in the development of indigenous technology for control of water pollution; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) In the Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution industries are required to develop and apply the best available practicable technology. Particularly clean technologies which produce low or no-waste for reducing the pollution load. While there is no plan of the Government to import any particular prpcess or control technology the industries may import relevant technologies.

(c) and (d) According to the information available with Government The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute Nagpur is presently engaged in conducting research on the developing various bio-technological processes, including bio-methanation for controlling water pollution. Other Institutes such as the Central Pulp and Paper Research Institute, Saharanpur the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras and the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology Hyderabad are also engaged in the development of control technology specific to the pulp and paper, tanneries and chlor alkali industries respectively.

Plugging the hole in ozone layer

3354. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by India to plug the hole which has been formed in the ozone layer;

(b) the efforts being made by other major countries in this direction;

(c) what are the effects of this phenomenon on the human body; and

(d) what is being done to prevent their ill effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) India has acceded to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer. Other major countries arc also Parties to this Protocol, which seeks to reduce and eliminate the consumption and production of ozone depleting substances in a time-bound manner. It is expected that through action under the Montreal Protocol, the ozone layer can be' protected and restored.

(c) and (d) Depletion of stratospheric; ozone leads to the increased penetration of ultra-violet-B radiation from the sun which can have an adverse impact on human health, including skin cancer, eye diseases and a reduction in immunities. Protection of the ozone layer is essential for preventing the increased incidence of such diseases and health problems.